

Please review the ARRL response to 03-104 in light of the power blackout on August 14, 2003. The power companies do not seem to be spending enough on maintenance of their existing power grid. I don't think that they are capable of implementing a broadband solution without causing extreme interference to the entire amateur radio community. Amateur radio operators have always stepped up and provided emergency communications when disaster strikes. As was the case on August 14, 2003 when the blackout hit northeastern parts of the US and Canada. My experience with utility companies providing telecommunications services leads me to believe that BPL will be a mistake financially for customers, the utilities and the taxpayers who will ultimately pay the price for BPL's financial failure.

Thanks